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Soviet Says KGB Can Outspy CIA

Moscow, Dec. 18 (AP) — Preparing to celebrate its fiftieth birthday, the Soviet secret police got double praise today for recruiting Harold A. R. Philby, a British spy, and for allegedly outsmarting many American spies.

With the headline "Hello, Comrade Philby" and a smiling photo of the former British intelligence official, the Soviet Government newspaper *Izvestia* praised Philby as a hero of communism. It was the first disclosure to the Soviet people that Philby, who defected five years ago, was in the Soviet Union.

"Second Homeland"

Since he came here after gaining access to many secrets of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, Philby told *Izvestia*, he had found his "second homeland."

From the start of his career in British intelligence, Philby said, he obeyed the Soviet secret police, the KGB. "I was happy that I had become a member of Soviet intelligence," he added.

In separate praise of the KGB, *Pravda*, the Communist party newspaper, said Soviet counter-espionage was so successful that Western agents complain: "We try, but the KGB stops us."

The United States Embassy

labeled as "fabrications" charges in the article that the United States spies on this country.

Pravda also charged that two United States assistant military attaches were caught last year when they "impudently peered" through a fence around an unidentified Soviet "military object" about 300 miles west of Moscow.

Released After Arrest

The United States Embassy statement confirmed the incident but said the Americans were improperly detained and "the accusations against them were without foundation."

The two, Lt. Cmdr. Robert B. Bathurst of the Navy and Lt. Col. Robert E. Llichow of the Army, were arrested on the spot but were later released. They left the Soviet Union last spring at the end of normal duty tours.

The KGB said in *Pravda* that at one time it caught a spy named Afonov, who it said worked for United States intelligence. Using his radio and secret dispatches, the KGB said, it tricked the United States for eight years with false military information.

The KGB, whose Russian initials stand for the words State Security Committee, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary Wednesday.

Fooled Allen Dulles

Philby boasted in the *Izvestia* article of his feats as a double agent and said he had completely fooled Allen Dulles, then director of the CIA.

"It was my job to plan various operations against the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries and then I had to torpedo them myself," he said.